

IN THE ABSTRACT:

No Amendment.

IN THE DRAWINGS:

No amendment.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

The applicants thank the Examiner for careful attention to this application.

Response to claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 1-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regards as the invention. The applicants reverse the rejection.

Claims 1 and 15 were objected to for the use of improper Markush language. It is believed that the language complained about by the Examiner recites nuclear material which includes one or more of a number of possible constituents. The applicants believe that using the Markush language in describing nuclear material to which the invention applies is inappropriate because these mixtures contain many ingredients, some of which are more troublesome to stabilize than others. The inventive methods are intended to cover materials which contain other constituents in addition to the recited materials. The invention, as acknowledged by the Examiner, is free from the prior art when amended as indicated and will be explained later. Nevertheless, the use of a limiting Markush description could be construed to limit the claims to material which only includes the items set forth in the Markush group and that is clearly not intended by the application or required by the prior art.

The Examiner also objected to claim 20 in that it is unclear, in the Examiner opinion, which one of the components of the nuclear material must be an oxide or a halide. The claim was written because any of the materials recited could be oxides or halides or both, for instance the actinides or uranics could be either oxides or halides or mixtures of various salts, some of which would be oxides or halides and may contain other salts. The hydrocarbons and/or acids may contain oxide or halides so that it is believed that the claims are clear in what they cover. The Examiner is requested to withdraw the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112.

Response to claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 6-10, 15-16, 19, 20-22 and 24-27 as anticipated or in the alternative, obvious under the previously cited Wagh '815 patent. The Examiner is correct in the statement that the claims as originally presented do not require fluorides or hydrocarbons, but this is not the intent of the applicants. Claims 1 and 15 have been amended to include a recitation of these materials.

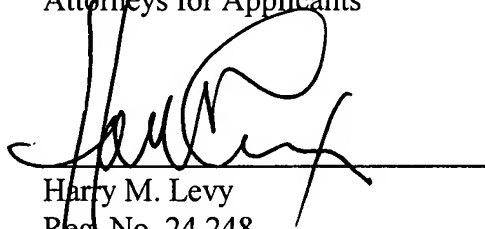
Claim 20 has been amended so that the article there defined includes either magnesium fluoride or an absorbed hydrocarbon. Therefore, it is believed that the claims as now presented clearly distinguish over the Wagh '815 patent and are patentable either under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or 103(a) and the allowance of all claims 1-27 are herein requested.

If the Examiner disagrees with the applicants, he is requested to call the undersigned attorney so that prosecution in this case can be facilitated since it is believed that the instant amendment has addressed all problems previously raised by the Examiner.

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Respectfully submitted,

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